

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY SLAMS BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN TO WEAKEN CLEAN AIR ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C. --

- Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA) released the following statement in response to today's report in the Washington Post that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon take a giant step towards eliminating key Clean Air Act requirements for aging coal-fired power plants. The Administration's drive to eliminate so called "New Source Review" (NSR) regulations is widely believed to have brought enforcement of the Clean Air Act to a screeching halt at EPA.

"The Bush Administration is risking the public's health and the environment by undermining the Clean Air Act. In January, 53 Members of the Northeast Congressional delegation joined me in sending a letter to Administrator Whitman urging her not to weaken the New Source Review regulations, which protect public health and environment in the Northeast and the rest of the nation. But it appears that healthy bottom lines for the major energy companies are a greater concern to the Administration than the health of our constituents," Markey stated.

"Even the recent publication of medical studies linking air pollution to the development of asthma in children and lung cancer in adults has not stopped the NSR rollback juggernaut. Instead we are asked to believe that the energy companies will respond to incentives and voluntarily reduce their toxic emissions. But asking industry to voluntarily reduce harmful emissions is like asking tobacco companies to voluntarily reduce the amount of nicotine in cigarettes. The elimination of NSR lets power plants and other polluting industrial facilities blow smoke in the public's face."

More information at http://www.house.gov/markey/iss_environment.htm

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